GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015
Air Quality
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the monitoring mechanism to check the air quality in the country;
(b) whether there is any National Air Quality Index to assess the air quality and pollution level;
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the functioning and effectiveness of the same; and
(d) the other steps taken by the Government to improve the air quality in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The ambient air quality is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for UTs and NEERI at 249 cities, towns and industrial areas under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations have also been installed in select cities for data on ambient air quality on 24 x 7 basis.

(b) & (c) Yes sir, National Air Quality Index, a public information tool on air quality has been launched while considering pollution levels for eight pollutants in ambient air. The values so generated are loaded on the website of Central Pollution Control Board for 11 cities.

(d) The Government has taken various steps to improve air quality in the country which interalia include, notification of emission standards for various categories of industry and gensets; introduction of cleaner fuels (B.S. III/IV) as per the Auto Fuel Policy; registration of B.S. IV compliant passenger cars in selected cities and towns; supply of gaseous fuel (CNG and LPG) in selected cities and towns; use of beneficiated coal for coal based thermal power plants; enforcement of stringent Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate scheme to check exhaust emissions from in-use vehicles; issuance of directions to all the SPCBs/PCCs to direct all the industries under 17 categories of highly polluting industries to install online effluent /emission monitoring system; strengthening of mass public transport including establishment of metro rail, low floor bus, etc.
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